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WHY NOT, NORTH CAROLINA:

A History Of

THE WHY NOT ACADEMY,
THE WHY NOT MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION,
THE WHY NOT COMMUNITY,
and
THE FAIR GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

by

WILLIAM T. AUMAN
and
MINNIE S. STUART

WHY NOT, NORTH CAROLINA
May, 1986

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Copies of this book can be obtained from Susan C. King, Route 1, Box 29, Seagrove, NC 27341.

Published by the Why Not Memorial Association

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following members of the Historical Committee of the Why Not Memorial Association played a role in the planning, research, writing, and publication of this book:

William T. Auman

Imogene Bulla

David Graves

Nell Graves

James B. King

Jane King

Susan King

Vernon King

Thomas Lawrence

Jack McKenzie

Ruth McKenzie

Donna Staley

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CHAPTER ONE:

HISTORY

OF

THE WHY NOT COMMUNITY

Distinguished by one of the most colorful and unique names to be found in any gazateer, the Why Not community remains today pretty much a bastion of rural America. Take away the paved roads, the few modern brick houses, and the telephone and electric power lines, and Why Not would look much as it did a century ago. Prior to 1850, the Why Not community had little to distinguish it from the surrounding rural communities of southern Randolph County. But with the completion in 1853 of the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road, which ran through the heart of the Why Not community, the tempo of life in the area increased. The plank road ran from Salem (now Winston-Salem) to Fayetteville, a distance of 129 miles, making it the longest plank road in the world at the time.

Why Not was officially born when a United States post office was established there in 1860. Postal authorities in Washington, of course, needed a name to designate the new postal station and so, as tradition has it, area citizens assembled to settle on one. As the story goes, numerous names were suggested. Why not name it this, why not name it that. A great deal of time passed, but the group could not agree on a name. Finally Martin Auman (some say it was Alfred Yow; others say it was Noah Richardson) said: "Let's name it Why Not and let's go home." Everyone agreed

and with a good laugh, the assembly broke up.

The Why Not Post Office (a Confederate post office from 1861 to 1865) operated under postmaster Josiah Presnell until December, 1866, when the office was closed. It reopened in April, 1877, under postmaster Thomas F. Allbright. Martin A. Cagle became postmaster in 1892, and Mamie S. Richardson in 1898. The Why Not Post Office was discontinued in March, 1905, when the Seagrove Post Office took over the Why Not district.

Along with the plank road and the post office, another landmark in the birth of Why Not was the construction of Auman's Chapel, built in 1859 beside the plank road just south of where the Seagrove School now stands. The structure was called Auman's Chapel because Martin Auman furnished the logs with which to build it. The name was changed to Mt. Moriah when the chapel became a regular church. Zachary Lineberry was the first preacher. During the Civil War, Mt. Moriah was burned by deserters because the building was being used as a headquarters and shelter for Confederate and state troops sent into the area to hunt them down. After the war, services were held in a building on the property of A. L. Yow and then at a brush arbor at Why Not. In 1870, Mr. and Mrs. William Tucker donated the land on which the brush arbor was located for a church site. The Fair Grove Church was built on it the next year.

During the Civil War, Why Notters were divided in their loyalties. Few wanted to leave the Union, but when North Carolina seceded, most citizens supported the new Confederacy. But as the war dragged on, as the losses in combat and to disease mounted, as middle-age men with large families were forced into the

ranks by an unpopular draft law, and as taxes and inflation increased, many area people opted for a cessation of hostilities, peace, and even reunion. Most of the residents were nonslaveholders who saw little sense in suffering or dying to maintain slavery, an institution some believed to be morally wrong and most believed to be inimical to the economic interests of independent white farmers, artisans, craftsmen, and laborers.

After the fall of 1862, Why Notters became engulfed in the inner Civil War that raged between the supporters of the Confederacy and those who wanted peace and reunion. Murder, arson, assault and battery, and torture became common. Two area anti-Confederate leaders were William Owens and William Gollihorn. Both lived near where the plank road crossed the Moore County line (Owens just across it, Gollihorn a few hundred yards on the Randolph side).

William Owens, a yeoman farmer with a wife and baby, led a desperate band of deserters, draft-dodgers, and Unionists who plundered and terrorized area Confederate loyalists. The following letter written to the editor of the Fayetteville Observer vividly portrays the terror the Owens gang spread throughout the southern Randolph County area:

Why Not, Randolph County
January 8, 1863

Things have grown so alarming . . . [that] I dare not leave home as well as many others for our familys would be without what little Protection we might afford [them]. The Wretched and deplorable Condition of Treason, Rebelion, Robery, and incendaryism . . . going on here is in creadable. But oh if you knew our Condition here you would say may the good Lord Deliver them. Men [have been] shot, some Beat that Life has been Dispaired of, Property taken, Barnes and Fences Burned, and we take[n] from our Familys as Prisonors and Compeled by threats not

to talk nor act in no way against the out Laws and Murders. It would take days to give you all but sufice it to say it all abounds here in this named section of our old North State. . . . One object I have is to let you know some of the outrages Comitted here since ordering the Militia officers to [arrest] and take Deserters and Enrolled men who have left their Companys without Furlows or orders. Some of our [militai] officers [were] shot, some [were] beat, and so it goes. Leiut. B. Prissly was Beat till Life was Despaired of for several days three weeks ago, and Last week his house [was] attacked, the windows Broken, his wife maimed by a rock thrown, and he [was] shot at in his escape. Capt Presslys Barn and . . . grain Burned and his house Plundered. Capt Peter Shamburger was taken on the 30th Last Month Bare Headed and made to go all day through rain till they viseted several Familys and secrued 9 guns and other Property. The Widow Cole and Daughters Living on [the] Plank Road who has a son in the army was most shamefully treated and Robed of various Household Property. [They] Kill[ed] her Cow, [dressed] it, taken the meat and left the Head and Hide at her door. One Felow Put Down her Water Buckett and Jumpt booth Feet on it and Smacked it to the ground and all such Pitifull conduct. This is only what Come under my own Notice and tis a very Small Part of what is going on. [I] will now give you my own case. On Monday last 18 men armed Came to my house threatened my wife and Mrs Harriss my Daughter who was with us on a Visit. I not being at home [they] found my gun was Loaned out . . . to . . . Mr. John Lucas who Lived about a mile from me. . . . Mr. Lucas had been out on a deer hunt. They then marched him before them to my house. I had got home and they bound him not to speak to me, only to Deliver the gun which he did--they demanded me to give it up. I Declined to do so as my own property. Four of them Cocked there guns and haeled them at my Breast my Wife and Daughter screaming. One advanced and seized the gun and I gave it up and stated you have deprived me of my property against my will. . . . They Cursed me and said if I behaved myself they would before two months restore me to the Bosom of Abe Lincon as Lasuraess was to Father Abraham but if they herd from me any more they would send me to the Devil where Secession Came from and my age only saved my Life.

Jas. S. Dunn[1]

William Owens finally was captured in the spring of 1864, jailed, and about a year later, hanged by a mob.[2] William Gollihorn, a well-to-do farmer and justice of the peace, successfully eluded harm during the war, but one of his sons was captured by Confederate troops, staked, and shot at what is now know as "Gollihorn Springs," which is located near the present-day Seagrove School house.

Captain D. C. Green of the Confederate Army accounted for the capture and execution of Alpheus Gollihorn:

> he fired upon two of our men with the intention no doubt of killing them while they . . . were moving upon him in his fortified position. If I had been present when he was first taken he would not have been brought to camp. But such not being the case he was brought before me. [The troops had orders to give no quarter to anyone who fired on them.] I gave him the benefit of a Drum head court martial which condemned him to be shot to death with musketry on the 22d day [of] march [1865] at 4 P.M. (3)

Private William F. Walters of Company L, Third Indiana Cavalry, a companion of Alpheus Gollihorn, also was captured by Captain Green's men. Walters was a scout from Sherman's Army which was then only about forty miles south of Why Not. The United States soldier helped organize resistance against the Confederacy in the southern Randolph County area.

Walters was court-martialed by Confederate Army authorities in Asheboro soon after his capture. He was charged with being an accomplice of Alpheus Gollihorn in the murder and robbery of John Vanderford, a Confederate soldier from the Why Not area. The court found private Walters

> guilty of robbery and of association with armed bands of deserters and robbers--of resisting military authority of the Confederate States and of being a leader and counsellor of such armed resistance.

The military court ordered that Walters be "shot to death with musketry" which was carried out on April 1, 1865, in Asheboro.[4]

Men were not the only victims of the inner Civil War in the Why Not area. The women and children on both sides faced starvation, torture, rape, and even death at the hands of their enemies. The best account of the torture of a woman is found in

the case of the wife of William Owens, the boldest and most noted leader of deserters, draft-dodgers, and Unionists in the Southern Randolph County area during the war. Alfred Pike, a Randolph County militia officer and deputy sheriff, tortured Mrs. Owens to force from her the location of her husband's hideout. When reproached by legal authorities for his abuse of the law, Pike retorted:

I went with my squad to Owens spring where his wife was washing & inquired of her as to Owens whereabouts, she said he was dead & buried. I told her that she must show us the grave. She thereupon began to curse us and abuse us for every thing that was bad. Some of my men told me that if I would hand her over to them they would or could make her talk. I told her to go some twenty steps apart with them, she seized up in her arms her infant not twelve months old & swore she would not go--I slaped her jaws till she put down her baby & went with them, they tied her thumbs together behind her back & suspended her with a cord tied to her two thumbs thus fastened behind her to a limb so that her toes could just touch the ground, after remaining in this position a while she said her husband was not dead & that if they would let her down she would tell all she knew. I went up just then & I think she told some truth, but after a while I thought she commenced lying again & I with another man (one of my squad) took her off some fifty yards to a fence & put her thumbs under a corner of the fence, she soon became quiet and behaved very respectfully. The rails were flat and not sharp between which I placed her thumbs. I dont think she was hurt bad. This is all I have done Sir, and now, if I have not the right to treat Bill Owens, his wife & the like in this manner I want to know it, & I will go to the Yankees or anywhere else before I will live in a country in which I cannot treat such people in this manner. (5)

The womenfolk of the Confederate faction also suffered numerous outrages at the hands of the deserters, draft-dodgers, and Unionists. One case occurred in January, 1865, when the wife of William Luck and mother of seven children was mortally wounded in a shotout with a band of deserters (Luck owned seven slaves):

All quiet in this county [Randolph] except some deserters have been makeing a raid within the last few days down in the lower part of the county adjoining Moor & Montgomery . . . I am told they went to William Luck's house for the purpose of shooting him, and, his wife, in endeavoring to assist him, was shot by one of the deserters and is said to be severely wounded . . . Luck

shot one of the men dead. They are said, most of them, to have come from Moor & Montgomery ctys. They visited quite a number of other residinces and pilfered them. (6)

Despite the internecine strife and the destitution and near-famine conditions faced by their families back home, many a Why Notter served in the Confederate ranks during the war. One such was Riley Luther, a small farmer, blacksmith, and father of two young children.[7] Luther enlisted in Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops, in March, 1862. Fortunately for posterity, several dozen letters between him and his wife during the war have survived.[8] Their contents provide a look at the personal lives of Why Notters both on the war front and on the home front. One of Riley's first letters to his wife Mary Ann came from Camp Magnum (a Confederate "boot camp") on April 21, 1862:

I drop you these few lines that you may know how it is with me. I cannot say that I am well for I have not been able to go on duty ever since Martin Auman left here. I have had a bad cold and sore throat and cannot rest well at night. (9)

I want you to get Mrs. Presnell to make some cough medicine and sent it to me by J. D. Tucker if she knows what would be good for a cough. (10)

I want you to write back and let me know how you and the children and all the neighbors are getting along.

John Latham has got the measles. He was taken before Martin was out and the measles went in on him and we could not get them broke out any more till a few days ago but they are now broke out. He is very sick but with good care I think he will begin to mend in a day or two. He says that he would like for his pap to come out to see him. (11)

Henry Vuncannon and Noah Graves are complaining of bad colds and sore throats. D. W. McDonald is well and getting along well. (12)

I remain yours affectionately

Riley Luther

Let me know in next letter how all the neighbors are getting [along] planting corn etc

R L

On June 15, 1862, Riley wrote Mary Ann from Drewry's Bluff below Richmond where his regiment was building fortifications:

Thar is write smart of sickness here now in our ragment now. Thar is some twenty or twenty five Reports themselves sick of mornings. But thar is none dangrous Bad I dont think. John Latham has got a sore throte and is in the horse ptle. Enoch Garner is sick. Noah Graves is sick. Jurns (?) Spencer is sick. Alfred Presnell is sick. Them is all that is sick out of our setlement. . . . I want you to write to me . . . whether you can git the wheat cut or not and whether it [is] good or not. Tel Martin Auman that I have not forgot him yet. Tel R. Presnell I gave him all my best Respects. (13)

In a letter dated July 3, 1862, from a camp near Drewry's Bluff, Riley told Mary Ann of his role in the Battle of Richmond:

I Received your letters the 26th But I did not have time to answer your leter Back. We was all fixing to [go] upp to the battle fiel. We have Bin marching six days all the tim[e] day and night. We have just got to our Camp this morning all wered [wore] down. We was all formed in the line of battle three or four times. But we never open[ed] fire at all. The Bumes [bombs] flew over our heades all most like hail but none of us got hert. Thar was one struck the ground about twenty steps from me and threw the dirt over me.

We have drove the yankees back to there gun boats below Richmond on and now thare are trying to Come on the other side of Jameses River Between Richmond and Petersburg and are now expecting afight now here at the Bluff to day. I hear the yankees Buming now down at the cedarpoint now. I cant tel how many fightes thare has bin but thare has bin three big battles besides several skrumishes. We have gained the victories in all of them But with heavey losses on both sides.

Mary An I dont want you to bee uneasy about me. I dont think that thar is any of the Canon that will hit me. If all the balls and shot was to hit every time we all would be killed in afew minetes.

On August 3, Riley reported from camp near Petersburg that:

the neighbor boys is ginerly all well. Noah Graves is mending the last time I heard from him.

I am glad to [k]now that you Received the money that I sent to you and that you paid Alfred Yow and Harbard some money. I shall send you some more money hom by Graves or Spencer.

In December, 1862, Riley Luther took part in the Confederate victory at Fredericksburg, Virginia. One Why Notter was killed and two wounded:

I have nothing to write to you at presant any more than what I sapose you have hearn about the fight at Fredericks Burg. We had two killed out of my company. Lieutenant Weir was shot threu the head. David Russell shot dead on the field. John Hill was shot threu the thigh and Spencers boy in the hip. I think that was all that got hurt in my company. Thar was eleven killed and seventy five wounded in my Reagement. (14)

You wanted to know whether I had to fight any or not. [I] do not and I shaint as long as i can help it. I have not bin in ranks since before we left Peters Burg and I dont think thar['s] much danger of my having to go to [the] rank[s] for I am in the [blacksmith] shop every day pretey near doing work.

On September 6, 1863, Riley wrote the following letter to Mary Ann from "Taylors ville." He discussed personal problems and expressed concern for the well-being of his family. And for the first time, he asked about the deserters and peace meetings back home.

Dear Mary An. I now take presant opertunity of wrting you afew lines to let you [k]now that I am in good helth at this time. About my Side and arm I got kick[ed] the other day by amule and my Side and arm is very Sore and I hope when these lines comes to hand tha may find you all well. I received your kind leter which was rote the 29th which I was glad to hear from you and that you was all well.

I have nothing interesting at this time to write to you. We are all generly well. Thare is as litle sickness in the reagmet as I ever node at one time. My eyes is giting about well. I have the spectes that you sent me and I was very glad to get them and tel Randal that I wil take good care of them until I return them. I am glad to that you have the whate thrashed and that you are amaking alitle some thing to eat at home. Times verey hard hear in Camp. We get nothing much but meat and bread. I am spending aheap of my money for something to eat. You need not to try to perpare any clothes for me. I can git them Cheaper here than you can make them and send to me. I want you to git Martin or Randal to go with [you] to harbards and git that wheat in you have got it and git one or another of there half bushel to measure it in.

I want you [to] write to me whether thar['s] any Chance to buy any wheat or not. I want you [to] tell me what the Deserter[s] are doing and also what [is] the meaning of ther holding peace meeting[s]. I have got your mother apair of shoes. I will send them home.

By October, Riley was "seeing very hard times." His letter to Mary Ann on the 25th, written from camp near Brandy Station,

Virginia, expressed his concern about the family food supply and spoke of the heavy losses suffered in the Battle of Bristow Station:

> We have had avery hard fight out here and has lost a great many men. The loss in our brigade five hundred and forty eight killed and wounded. Sargent Spencer was killed on the field. We are seeing very hard times here now. We have verey cold bad wet wether here now and nothing much to eat. I go to bed hungry and git up hungry. I only draw one struck point of flour a day and a small bit of beef for adays ration. I have seen the hardest times on this march that I ever seen in my life. I have had to be behind all the time amending up broakdown work and had to buy what litle I eat. . . . I want you to write som and let me [k]now how you are giting along and how much corn you have made and whether you have made anough of feed [for] the cow and yearlin or not and how you are off for money and whether you have got the Children any shoes or not and whether your Mother has any or not. I received my things that you sent [by] Lieutenant Spencer. I have aplenty Clothes now. I want you Mary Ann to git some Wheat sowed if you think thar [is] any of the ground worth Sowing. You will have to do which every way you think best for you to do for I dont [k]now when I shal git the Chance to come home any more. You dont [k]now how bad I want to see you and the little Children. So you must do the best yo can. (15)

Riley wrote Mary Ann a letter on January 27, 1864, in which he described the execution of a deserter and told of the court-martial of several others, including a Why Notter:

> Times very hard here. We have but little to eat. I saw a man shot last monday. He was tyed to a stake and twelve guns was shot at him which killed him dead. He was in the forty eight regt in our brigade. There is three more men to be shot next saturday in my reagment. It all for deserting. Sentance was past against Elijahy Luck this morning for him to war a ball and chain three years [and] do hard labor on the fortyfiecations all the time. (16)
>
> Thar['s] several in the gardhouse now waring balls and chains and toting logs of wood. And tha have to live on nothing but bred and water. It['s] two much for men to have [to] undergow at [but] we pore soldiers have to.

In April, 1864, Riley was in camp near Orange Courthouse, Virginia. On the 25th he wrote Mary Ann about some Why Not soldiers and about the results of a vote by the soldiers in his regiment for the candidates running in a by-election for a con-

gressional seat made vacant by the death of Seventh Congressional District representative Samuel H. Christain of Montgomery County.

I heard from John Hancock the other day for the first time since he left here. He is at Camp Jackson horse pitle. I sapose he is geting most well. I heard from him by aleter from Alen Presnell that he sent to Alfred. From the way the leter red tha was both at the same horse pitle and that tha would soon [be] able to come to camp. You wanted to know whether the soldiers was alowed to vote or not. We all voted and Leach went ahed by alarg majority but whether it was left that way after the poles was closed I caint say. (17)

Colonel James Madison Leach of Lexington, North Carolina, resigned his army commission in April to run as a Peace party candidate for the Congressional seat vacated by Christian. Leach was a native of Randolph County, a graduate of the United States Military Academy, and a former Whig Congressman from North Carolina in the United States House of Representatives. The Confederate Seventh Congressional District which Leach represented, included the highly disaffected counties of Randolph, Chatham, Moore, Montgomery, and Davidson, as well as Richmond and Anson counties. As Luther's letter shows, the Randolph soldiers favored Leach, the peace candidate, over his opponent who was a pro-Confederate and war candidate.

Riley Luther was captured at Hatcher's Run on March 31, 1865, and sent to the large Federal prisoner of war camp at Point Lookout, Maryland. On April 30, 1865, Riley Luther died of "dibility" at the prison camp.[18]

Page's toll house, a station for collecting tolls on the plank road, was located about a mile north of Why Not (a few hundred yards north of the present-day Seagrove School) and fourteen miles south of Asheboro. James and Martha Shamburger Page operated the toll house until it closed in the Reconstruc-

tion years.

During the Civil War, Mr. Page served as doorkeeper for the Confederate House of Representatives in Richmond. His son W. J. Page served for a time as the doorkeeper of the House of Representatives in Raleigh. Mrs. Page, with the aid of the family's twelve slaves, managed the toll house and a large farm, and reared her seven children in the absence of her husband. Jane, one of her daughters, received a superficial wound in a wartime incident when some deserters shot into the Page's house. On March 7 and 8, 1865, the following citizens who were travelling along the plank road were arrested by Confederate troops stationed at Page's toll house: Warren Auman, Hillary Auman, Jacob Auman, W. H. H. Bolling, and A. King. No doubt they were arrested on the suspicion that they were either deserters or aiders of deserters.[19] All were released within a week.

The Civil War finally came to an end in the spring of 1865, but the inner Civil War between pro-Confederate and anti-Confederate factions continued for about two years in many parts of North Carolina, including the Randolph County area. Assault, arson, murder, and court proceedings were used to settle wartime animosities. By 1868, the two factions had carried their struggle into the political arena as Republicans (the old anti-Confederate crowd) vied with Democrats (the old pro-Confederate crowd) for political control. By 1876, the Democrats had gained political ascendancy in the state, and thereafter, the old wartime grudges gradually faded away.

The Reconstruction years were ones of poverty as well as

civil and political strife in the Randolph County area. But in the decades after the war, the people of the Why Not area, through hard work and sacrifice, gradually forged a new life for themselves. In the mid-1890s, two events of great importance occurred in the community that signaled the advent of a new era: the founding of Why Not Academy in 1892, and the building of the Aberdeen and Asheboro Railroad in 1896.

The Page family of Moore County organized and directed the construction of the Aberdeen and Asheboro Railroad. In the fall of 1896, the tracks were completed from Asheboro to the Why Not community where a depot was to be built. But the depot site was located a mile west of the Why Not Post Office--a fact that bode ill for the future growth of Why Not itself. The Pages named the new depot after Edwin Seagroves, one of their civil engineers. Due to the poor judgement of a sign painter, the final "s" in Seagroves was dropped when he ran out of space on the station signs placed at each end of the depot.

Thus was born Seagrove, a community destined by the chance location of a depot to preempt Why Not in population growth and commerical development in the twentieth century. But Why Not retained one asset that Seagrove could not diminish--Why Not Academy. Why Not Academy was a combination public and private school. During the public school season (mainly during the winter months) the academy served as a free public elementary school, but year-round it offered commercial and secondary education courses to tuition paying private students. Why Not Academy would maintain the community's name as a place of note until the academy building burned down in 1916. (The history of Why Not

Academy is presented in depth in Chapter Two.)

After the destruction of Why Not Academy by fire in 1916, the community began to revert to its antebellum state of a rural crossroads community. Why Not's halcyon days were over: Why Not's beloved academy was gone; soon the public schools would have preempted the need for it anyway when the high school was added to the educational system. Why Not's days as a stop on the plank road was but a quaint memory; state highway 705 follows the old plank road route between Seagrove and Robbins, but it is a minor commercial artery. Why Not's Fair Grove Methodist Church dwindled in membership until it was abandoned by the Methodist Conference in 1935; nearby churches, notably the Methodist (founded in 1922) and Christian Churches in Seagrove, attracted Fair Grove members to their congregations. Why Not's post office closed in 1905; neighboring Seagrove, with its general stores, business operations, and railroad depot, became the post office address of Why Notters.

But Why Not refused to die. In 1936, the Why Not Memorial Association was founded, and in 1951, the Fair Grove Church and lands were deeded to the Association trustees. The Why Not Memorial Association (incorporated in 1973) is dedicated to the safekeeping of the Fair Grove Church and cemetery, and to the preservation of the history of the Fair Grove Church, the Why Not Academy, and the Why Not community at large.

In the middle decades of the twentieth-century, Why Not experienced new growth. Phil and Nell Graves established a candle business at their home called Graves Candle Company. The

Macons operated an upholstery business for a number of years, but it is now defunct. In the 1950s, Alfred Spencer, Ivey Luck, Clay Presnell, and others, established Luck's, Inc., a canning and food processing business that has been a great financial success. Luck's, Inc., is located in the Old Gap midway between Why Not and Seagrove. The nationally famous Cole pottery sustains a folk craft business that has existed in the community for five generations now. And, in recent years, a new Wesleyan Church was built in Why Not.

Why Not became the focus of statewide attention in the early 1970s. The Carolina Population Center declared that, according to 1970 census data, Why Not was the nearest inhabited community to the exact center of the state's population. With over five and one-half million people in the state, this made Why Not seem like a crowded place. But not so. One can drive fourteen miles in any direction (and much farther than that in most directions) from Why Not and see nothing but beautiful farm country, dotted here and there with a village or a small town.

ENDNOTES FOR CHAPTER ONE

1

Jas. S. Dunn to E. J. Hale & Sons, January 8, 1863, Governors Papers, Zebulon Baird Vance, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. Hale & Sons were the editors of the Fayetteville Observer, a large and influential newspaper.

2

For an account of the capture of William Owens, see the Fayetteville Observer, April 25, 1864. Buren Garner, who lives in the old Christian Union settlement, told me about the hanging of Owens. William Owens, age 33, enlisted in Company B, Fifty-second Regiment North Carolina Troops in March 1862. Two months later the company muster roll listed him as absent without leave. Thus ended his military career. See Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from North Carolina, Fifty-second Regiment North Carolina Troops, Record Group 109, National Archives, Washington, D. C. (microfilm).

3

Capt. D. C. Green to Col. McAlister, March 27, 1865, Alexander Carey McAlister Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

4

On the court-martial of private Walters, see "Proceedings of a Military Court Commenced at Asheboro . . . .," and Special Orders No. 11, March 28, 1865, Alexander Carey McAlister Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

5

Thomas Settle to Z. B. Vance, October 4, 1864, Hampton L. Carson Collection, Rare Book Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia. The State Archives in Raleigh has a copy of this letter filed in the Thomas Settle Letters (1863-1864).

6

D. Curtis to M. S. Robins, January 9, 1865, Marmaduke S. Robins Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

7

1860 Federal Census, Randolph County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, State Archives.

8

Riley Luther, age 24, farmer and blacksmith, volunteered in March 1862, to serve in Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops. See Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from North Carolina, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops, Record Group 109, National Archives, Washington, D. C. The records of all Confederate soldiers discussed below come from this source.

All the letters quoted below from Riley Luther to his wife are from the originals located in the Riley Luther Papers, Manuscript Department, Perkin's Library, Duke University.

9

Martin Auman (1827-1873) was the son of George Auman, and the grandson of Andrew Auman and Barbara Luther. He was raised at Auman's Hill (present-day Asbury). Martin Auman resided

during his adult years in Why Not. He was the first person buried in the cemetery at the Fair Grove Methodist Church. In the 1860 Federal census, Martin Auman was listed as a farmer, age 32, with a wife named Lydia (age 27), and four children named Francina, Louisa, Jefferson, and Alson.

10

Jesse D. Tucker enlisted in Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops in March 1862. He was promoted to sergeant in August, 1863. The records make no mention of him after that.

11

John Latham, age 17, farmer, enlisted in March 1862, in Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops. He died of disease on July 24, 1862, at a hospital in Petersburg, Virginia.

12

Noah Graves, age 24, farmer, enlisted in March 1862, in Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops. He was the son of Richard and Nancy Graves and the husband of Mary Jane Graves. Noah Graves died of disease on August 13, 1862, in a hospital in Petersburg, Virginia.

13

Enoch Garner, age 20, enlisted in May, 1862, in Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops. He served until December, 1864, when he was furloughed for 60 days because of illness. Alfred Presnell enlisted in April, 1862, in Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops. He was promoted to sergeant in April, 1863. Alfred Presnell was killed in the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864. His parents were John and Sarah Presnell.

14

Jesse Spencer, age 29, enlisted in March, 1862, in Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops. He was wounded in the hip on December 13, 1862, in the Battle of Fredericksburg. Jesse Spencer died of his wound on December 26 in a hospital in Richmond.

15

Nathan Spencer, age 27, farmer, enlisted in March, 1862, in Company F, Forty-sixth North Carolina Troops. He was promoted to sergeant on April 1, 1863. Nathan Spencer was killed on October 4, 1863, in the Battle of Bristow Station, with wounds in the breast and knee.

16

Elijah Luck, farmer, age 21, enrolled in March, 1862, in Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops. He deserted twice and was court-martialed in January, 1864. He was sentenced to do three years hard labor at the Confederate prisoner of war camp at Salisbury, North Carolina. Elijah Luck died of pneumonia at Salisbury on November 1, 1864.

17

John Hancock, Jr., farmer, enlisted in March, 1862, in Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops. In April, 1864, he was in a hospital in Richmond with pneumonia. He returned to duty in May, 1864. No further mention was made of him in the records. Allen Presnell enlisted on July 4, 1863, in

Company F, Forty-sixth Regiment North Carolina Troops. He died of typhoid fever on May 13, 1864, in Jackson Hospital, Richmond, Virginia.

18

Today, Point Lookout is a National Military Park. It is located on the southernmost point of land in Maryland where the Potomac River empties into the Chesapeake Bay. A large monument to the Confederate dead is located near the entrance of the park. The name of Riley Luther, among the names of hundreds of other Confederate dead, is chiseled on it.

19

List of prisoners captured by Detch. Cook's & Lane's Brig., No 1, Alexander Carey McAlister Papers, Southern Historical Collection.

CHAPTER TWO:

HISTORY

OF

FAIR GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

IN 1958, the History of Fair Grove Methodist Church by Minnie Spencer Stuart was published by the Why Not Memorial Association. The members of the Historical Committee of the Association decided to include the late Mrs. Stuart's history as a chapter in this book. But for a few changes and deletions, mostly minor, the original text has been followed.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

The church was organized about the year 1859, and erected near the historical plank road--leading from Winston-Salem to Fayetteville--near where the Seagrove School now stands.

The structure was built of logs and was called Mt. Moriah Church. Zachary Lineberry was the first preacher. This building was burned during the Civil War.

Services were then held temporarily in a building on the

A. L. Yow land, near where Worth Yow, a descendant, now resides. An arbor, which was not uncommon for churches in that day, was built on grounds where the present church stands. Rock pillars were constructed on each side of this arbor, and it was customary for a fire to be built on top of them to give light during worship services. Candles were used in the pulpit.

FIRST CHURCH BUILT ON CHURCH PROPERTY

In 1870, Mr. and Mrs. William Tucker gave land to build a church. It was erected under the supervision of Martin Auman, Henry Auman, Silas Presnell, William Tucker, and others.

The church was named Fair Grove, I have been told, because of its location in a grove of oak trees where the ground was covered with glossy stones, and because of the beautiful scenery surrounding it. The first pastor was the Reverend W. C. Kennett (1870-72).

The timber for the building was cut from the farm of Martin Auman and hauled by his two sons, Jefferson and Alson, to a mill at Sugg Creek where it was sawed into lumber. Men for miles around gave of their time to erect the church. Material for the ceiling was dressed by hand.

It was 1871 before the church was finally finished and pews added. Up until this time plain benches were used. A. L. Yow make his own pew and always sat in it during services.

The last window was installed in the church on a Saturday, and James P. Boroughs, who later became the first headmaster of

Why Not Academy, started a private school there on the following Monday. From that time on, for many years, the community was deeply interested in education.

Furnishings for the interior of the church were added from time to time. I remember the first wood-burning stove had a drum-like apparatus on top. That stove really kept the church warm. Mrs. Lydia Auman took pride in keeping the stove polished and shined as long as she lived.

Among church leaders at this time were my father, E. L. Spencer, A. L. Yow, J. W. Trogdon, Henry Yow, J. A. King, Jefferson Auman, and others. The building served the community for almost thirty years (until 1900). During those years, the church met Conference requirements as well as did most churches its size.

CLASS MEETINGS

Class meetings were held in the church once a month when I was a child. Class leaders were elected. A book with the names of the members of the church was known as the "Class Book." As each name was called from the book, that person was supposed to say a few words. Usually they spoke of their Christian experiences and often asked for prayers that they would continue to live true Christian lives. The first class meeting I remember was when my uncle, Addison Spencer, of New Hope Methodist Protestant Church, was in charge of the service. I considered him such a devout man that this particular meeting made a lasting impression on me.

REVIVAL MEETINGS

In the years of my childhood, I remember that when the time for revival meetings came, some member would take a load of straw and spread it upon the floor. At that time we had a "mourner's bench" near the altar. When the call was given, the penitent ones would go to this bench and kneel. The Christian people would talk to them and pray for them. There was much shouting and praising God in those days. Three services were held each day. People would bring cooked food from home. Fires would be built on the church grounds so coffee could be made, and real Christiam fellowship prevailed.

Churches were always built near a spring as a source of water for the preacher while in the pulpit and for members of the congregation during the week-day and protracted meetings which lasted all week or longer (depending upon the interest shown), and for meals which were spread picnic fashion upon the church grounds and, in later years, on tables erected for the purpose. The spring near Fair Grove Church is still in use and continues to be referred to as "the church spring" by older residents. It is on a part of the land my father left his three daughters, Minnie, Hattie and Conie. In seasons of drought it has not "failed." It is now the source of water supply in the home of my youngest granddaughter, Mrs. Vern Ann Stuart Joyce and family.

"I REMEMBER"

The first singing I remember was when the preacher would read two lines--then the congregation would sing. He would continue by reading two more lines, which the congregation would follow in song, and this would continue until the verses were finished. Someone who could sing short or long meter (whichever the song called for) would lead.

The first song books I remember were Christian Harmony and Tribute of Praise. Later, my husband, Charles E. Stuart (after our marriage on May 15, 1892), became song leader, using a "tuning fork" to pitch the tune. This method of starting a tune was continued until an organ was bought for the church.

Among the unusual incidents I remember happening in connection with the old church was in my early childhood, when revival services were in progress. One night, when services were dismissed, a young girl by the name of Carolina Parks did not arise from the "mourner's bench." People were amazed! She could not speak, and they said she was in a "trance." I was a mere child, but recall they would sing and pray, and they said she would be converted when she awoke. She was removed to our home for the night, since we lived near the church. The next morning several people were there. I distinctly remember someone saying, "She is conscious." She had moved one of her feet. The last thing I can recall about the incident was her conversion at the church that day.

FAMILIES I REMEMBER SO WELL

Among the families I remember so well are: Mr. and Mrs. Eleazer Cox and daughters, Elma and Hannah; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Auman; the Pages who lived in the area--Martitia, who married Joe Steed, and Jane, who married Dr. Hancock. "Miss Jenny," as she was called, was a member of our church and lived in the community and taught school for many years after Dr. Hancock's death. Mrs. Minnie Hancock Hammer and the writer are the only persons left in this area who went to her school. Mrs. Hammer, who lives in Asheboro, is the widow of United States Congressman William C. Hammer.

Incidentally, in speaking of Mrs. Hammer, my thought is that she has retained much of her resemblance of former years, for I remember when my late brother, B. L. Spencer of Texas, was present at our annual service a few years ago, when he viewed the crowd assembled and said, "I see Minnie Hancock Hammer. We joined this church on the same day."

ORGANIZATION OF A SUNDAY SCHOOL

In 1867, a Sunday School was organized, and the following names were recorded as taking part: Silas Presnell, A. L. Yow, Edmund Tucker, Eleazer Cox, Noah Richardson, J. W. Trogdon, Jefferson Auman, Lydia Auman, Mary Ann Lowdermilk Cox, Elma Cox, Susannah Auman, Martitia Yow, Lou Tucker, Letha Vuncannon, H. J. Cox, Sarah C. Cox, Delano Tucker, William Tucker, and Sarah Presnell.

No literature was available, so questions from the Bible were dropped into a hat from which each would draw one and answer on the following Sunday. Letha Vuncannon used the "Blueback Speller" in teaching the primary class. She walked three miles to the church. Sunday School was held only six months of the year.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first superintendent of Sunday School I remember was Dr. F. E. Asbury. I remember his appointing Janie Spencer and Elma Cox to see that no person was being kept away from church for lack of suitable clothing.

The next superintendent I remember was E. L. Spencer. He organized classes and used a small bell to call the classes to assemble. As I recall, we used Sunday School literature by then.

J. W. Trogdon was superintendent when we observed our first Children's Day. He served until his death in 1889.

Graham Spencer was the next superintendent. He walked three miles to fulfill his duties. Among other superintendents on record are: Peter Vuncannon, J. H. Spencer, M. A. Cagle, J. A. Monroe, C. E. Stuart, H. D. Smith, Mrs. C. E. Stuart, L. A. King, M. C. Auman, J. E. King, and E. W. Auman.

Professor G. F. Garner (director of Why Not Academy) was a great help to this community and to the church. He was a member of the Baptist Church a few miles away, but we were fortunate to

have him teach the adult class and give reviews of the Sunday School lesson after classes reassembled.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY WORK INTRODUCED

The first I remember about missions was during the second pastorate of the Reverend W. C. Kennett (1882-84), when the Reverend J. C. Ogburn came to the church in the interest of foreign missions and gave us literature for our first Children's Day, which was held one month later. J. W. Trogdon, Sunday School superintendent, was in charge of the program.

Pleasant Hill Church held its first Children's Day in the afternoon of the same day Fair Grove's was held. This was a memorable day for the children of both churches. Autograph albums were given to Minnie Spencer of Fair Grove Church and to Hattie Caviness of Pleasant Hill. Each person who would give a dime was permitted to write his name or a verse in their albums. This is the first collection for foreign missions that I remember. Children's Day continued as an annual event for many years.

PARSONAGE BUILT

About 1893, a parsonage was built where the home of Lonnie A. King now stands. The Reverend J. H. Stowe, during his first ministry to the church (1893-95), moved in before it was finished, and he, with the help of Jefferson Auman and J. A. King, completed it. The Reverend Mr. Stowe and his family were a great

help to the community. He was pastor two different times, staying five years the second call (1910-14). A daughter, Miss Xannie Stowe, organized the first Christian Endeavor Society in the church. She and other members of the Stowe family are regular attendants at Why Not homecoming and memorial services. This parsonage was sold about 1915, and later the building burned.

THE CHURCH THAT NOW STANDS

About the year 1900, a new church building was started. The Worth Lumber Company had moved into the area, and a boarding school was in progress. The old church building was sold and the pews purchased by the school. Services were held in the Why Not Academy schoolhouse while the new church was under construction.

Leaders at this time were: Messrs. "Billy" Page, who was named treasurer of the building fund; J. H. Spencer, Noah Richardson, M. A. Cagle, Jefferson Auman, Charles E. Stuart, L. A. King, James A. King, Professor J. P. Boroughs, and others. The Reverend W. D. Fogleman was then pastor and remained for three years. Many who read this will remember his daughter, Carrie, and her interest in the church.

Some sections of the church's interior, a few years later, were divided by curtains where the adult Sunday School classes met. Then two small classrooms were partitioned for the primary and intermediate classes. A Baraca class for senior and teenage boys and a Philathea class for girls of the same age were

organized in the Sunday School a few years after the church was finished. These two classes gave several plays, and the members were very active workers in the church.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, organized by the Reverend T. J. Ogburn, was followed by a Home Missionary Society. Plays were given, quilts made, cards sold, and members paid dues. Among other things, they purchased a communion set and a carpet for the church. Money was also sent to foreign lands.

The Reverend J. Clyde Auman, who was reared in the Why Not community and was a member of the Fair Grove Church, graduated from Elon College, and then Westminster Seminary (located in Westminster, Maryland) in May, 1921. He and his bride of two months sailed for Tokyo in December, 1921, where they were to serve as Christian missionaries. They spent a year and a half in language school before moving to Nagoya, where he was superintendant of a boys' school until their return to the United States in August, 1927.

Both the Fair Grove Methodist Church and the Why Not Academy were instrumental in sending out ministers, teachers and successful businessmen and women from the Why Not community into the wider world. Among the ministers I remember, in addition to Clyde Auman, are: Ben Williams, T. A. Spencer, W. L. Maness, Charles Spencer, John Russell, and Frank Morgan. James Auman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Auman, also was a member of this church in his youth.

One organ and two pianos have been purchased during the life of the Fair Grove church. Pianists I recall were: Mrs. Etta Auman Austin, Mrs. Ethel Biggs Trogdon (daughter of the Reverend

G. H. Biggs), Mrs. Mabel Stuart Cox, Mrs. Mary Lilly Marshall, Marjorie Alexander, and Dorothy Lilly Brown.

MARRIAGES

One of the early marriages in Fair Grove Methodist Protestant Church was Milton Filmore Vuncannon to Miss Cora Juanita King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. King, on November 7, 1901.

On October 19, 1904, Martin McNeill and Miss May Spencer were united in marriage. Ross Cox married Miss Etta King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. King, on April 27, 1905.

Because of rain and flooded creeks, the marriage of Dr. John W. Austin to Miss Etta Jane Auman, scheduled to take place at the Fair Grove Church on June 9, 1913, took place instead at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Auman, the bride's parents.

METHODS USED IN LIGHTING THE CHURCH

Candles were first used in lighting the church. Then kerosene lamps were carried from the homes to provide even better light for church and prayer meetings at night. Later, brackets were fastened to the walls and lamps placed thereon. Then, when Charles B. Auman was a student at Elon College, he had a chance to buy an oil-burning brass chandelier from the college. This was installed near the center of the ceiling of the church, and is intact to this day. Later, a kerosene hanging lamp with shade was purchased to supplement the light over the pulpit.

When Aladdin lamps became popular in the homes, they were often taken to the church to give brighter light for special meetings at night. Finally, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Cox donated a Delco light plant. Emory Slack volunteered to furnish the wiring needed, and Euclid Auman did the electrical work. This method of lighting was used until electricity became available in rural areas in the 1930s.

CHURCH PLACED IN DIFFERENT CIRCUITS

The Fair Grove Methodist Church was one of eight churches comprising the Love Joy Methodist Protestant Circuit. The churches were paired as follows: Fair Grove and Pleasant Hill, Mt. Gilead and Melton Grove, Flag Spring and New Hope, Macedonia and Love Joy. One pastor took care of the eight churches.

Each pair of churches had preaching once a month on the same Sunday, one being at 11:00 a. m. and the other at 3:00 p. m. The method of travel used by the pastor was horse and buggy. Every six months the time of services would alternate, giving each church a morning service six times a year.

Later, churches were changed from one circuit to another, and the circuit the Fair Grove Church was on was called the Flag Spring circuit for a time. Then Flag Spring was added to Richland, and then it was called the Why Not Circuit.

When Seagrove Methodist Church (about one and one-half miles to the north) was built, and Fair Grove Church no longer held regular services, the circuit became known as the Seagrove circuit.

THE CHURCH BELL

The old bell, which hangs in the belfry and is still operated by a rope suspended from the vestibule of the church, has been heard throughout the community many, many times in its call to Sunday School and worship services. The tolling of this bell at the approach of a funeral procession to the grounds of this historic church and cemetery is a quaint custom which has been followed for years.

OLD AND NEW CEMETERY

A cemetery was first located on the grounds adjacent to the church. Among the people buried there are Martin Auman, 1873; Elisha Yow, 1880; Mrs. A. L. Yow, 1886; and Jane Tucker, 1887.

Due to a high watertable, the decision was made to start a new cemetery. Alfred L. Yow gave five-sixteenths of an acre of slightly elevated land located about one hundred yards north of the church. The first burial in this new cemetery was a child from the Yow family. Later, the Missionary Society bought one-third of an acre from Mr. and Mrs. Philmore Graves, whose land bordered a part of the cemetery. In 1933, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Cole gave one-third of an acre of adjoining land, which made the cemetery lot about square.

When memorial services became an annual event, flowers from yards and fields would be taken to the church, and when the morning service was over, all would march to the cemetery in a

group. with flowers in hand, making certain that there were enough flowers so no grave would be left bare. The service would be continued in the cemetery by singing and prayer while the graves were being decorated. Now many find it advantageous to place flowers on the graves in the early hours on Memorial Day.

Considering the fact that many graves were being added to the cemetery and that larger crowds were attending the memorial services, it was decided to name the first Sunday in May as annual Memorial Day. Later the date was moved ahead to the third Sunday in May.

MINISTERS SERVING FROM 1859-1947

1859.....Zachary Lineberry (Mt. Moriah)

1866.....J. W. Heath

1870-72.....W. C. Kennett

1873.....W. C. Hanner

1875.....Henry Lewallen

1882-84.....W. C. Kennett

1885-87.....James Dean

1888-90.....T. F. McCulloch

1891 92.....A. R. Hanner

1893-95.....J. H. Stowe

1896.....J. H. Betts

1897-99.....N. M. Modlin

1899-1901.....W. D. Fogleman

1902.....W. C. Lassiter

1904.....G. H. Biggs

1905-09.....J. A. Ledbetter

1910-14.....J. H. Stowe

1915.....no minister supplied

1916-17.....W. F. Ashburn

1918-19.....W. M. Pike

1920-24.....J. W. Hulin

1925-26.....D. S. Garner

1927.....J. B. Trogdon

1928.....D. S. Garner

1929.....J. B. Trogdon

1930.....W. H. Neese

1933-35.....G. L. Reynolds

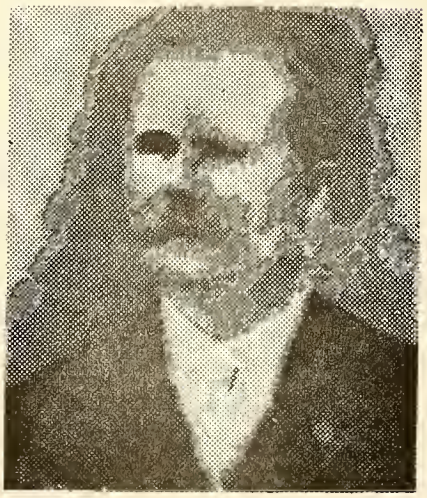
1936-39.....E. G. Cowan

1940-47.....Reverends Trollinger, Forrester, Hornbuckle, Ridenhour, Johnson, Ferree, and Cochran.

As far as my memory serves me, the following persons were among those remaining on the membership list of the Fair Grove Church when it was officially closed by the Methodist Church: Minnie S. Stuart, Charles E. Stuart, Verne S. Stuart, Mary Stuart, Vern Ann Stuart Joyce, Clayton Monroe, Lucinda Latham Luck, Conie S. Lowdermilk, Boyd King, Pearl Lilly, J. D. Lilly, Dorothy Lilly Brown, Lloyd Cagle, and Mrs. Margaret Cagle and daughter. Most of these people joined some other church in the community.

WHY NOT ACADEMY

PROF. JAMES P. BOROUGHS
Principal, Why Not Academy
1892-1898



PROF. GEORGE F. GARNER
Principal, Why Not Academy
and Business Institute
1899 - 1913

CHAPTER THREE:

HISTORY
OF
WHY NOT ACADEMY

Academies played a central role in the American education system in the nineteenth-century. Public schools, with few exceptions, only operated during the winter months and provided little more than a basic background in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Academies were private schools that offered what we today term a secondary education. They prepared students for college, a career in business, or other white-collar jobs.

In Randolph county, a few academies opened before the Civil War offering educational opportunities mainly for the children of the wealthier citizens. Several more were founded in the years after Reconstruction, and they played a central role in preparing area citizens from all walks of life to be leaders in the new industrial America that was developing rapidly after 1880.

A few private or "subscription" schools opened in the Why Not area after Reconstruction. Around 1870, C. L. Spencer, and later, Calvin McNeill and Mrs. Mary Ellen Lowdermilk Yow taught at what was called the Cox School House east of Why Not. J. P. Boroughs, Martitia Yow, Mrs. Jennie Hancock, and J. W. Trogdon held subscription schools during the summers over the years.

North Carolina established a public school system in 1840. The public schools closed during Reconstruction. Upon re-

opening, they were grossly underfunded until after 1900, when Progressive Era politicians established a modern public school system in the state.

The earliest public school teachers in the Why Not area after the war were the Reverends E. G. and W. R. Lowdermilk; both were graduates of Yadkin College who taught in the early 1880s. On a date in the 1880s that has been lost to memory, the local public school house burned down, and the school term was finished in a house near the residence of M. C. Auman. A new school house was built near the home of Jefferson Auman. J. R. Miller, Nixon Lucas, Martin Cagle, W. P. Lawrence, and Nancy Macon taught at this school during the late 1880s and the early 1890s.

In 1892, a group of Why Not citizens, who wanted to insure that area children would enjoy better educational opportunities, founded Why Not Academy. On October 20, 1892, James A. King and wife L. J. King donated two and one-half acres to the board of trustees of the academy. On the same day, Alfred L. Yow and wife Sarah Yow donated one and one-half acres to the trustees, making in all a four acre tract on which to locate the new Why Not Academy. The trustees included J. H. Spencer, E. E. McNeill, John F. Chisholm, M. A. Cagle, and T. W. Lawrence. Later, J. A. King replaced John F. Chisholm as a trustee.

A handsome two-story school house was constructed, with two rooms above and two below. Why Not Academy opened in August, 1893, with Professor James P. Boroughs as headmaster. On April 16, 1896, Professor Boroughs bought Why Not Academy from the trustees for $311. In 1900, Boroughs was elected Register of Deeds for Randolph County. He sold the academy to Professor

G. F. Garner in 1903 for $595. Garner had been in charge of the Commercial and Penning Department for several years. He renamed the school Why Not Academy and Business Institute.

Why Not Academy was both a public school and a private school. During the late fall and winter months, when the public schools were in session, the county paid tuition and other expenses for all area elementary students to attend school. At the same time, tuition paying private students could take advanced courses on the intermediate and secondary level. The remainder of the year, the academy taught intermediate and high school level courses for a fee to anyone who wanted to attend and could afford the tuition.

Most of the students attending Why Not Academy came from Randolph and neighboring Chatham, Moore, Guilford, Davidson, and Montgomery counties. But a few students came from more distant places. The students boarded at the homes of local residents. Board cost from $7 to $8 per month, and rooms rented from fifty cents to $1.50 per month. There was a dormitory available to male students under Professor Garner's administration.

Why Not Academy was coeducational, but relations between the genders were strickly regulated. A partition divided male and female students in each classroom, the professor sitting at front-center where he could supervise both groups at once. Boys and girls could speak to each other, in class and out, only by permission.

Religion was an important part of life at the academy. Each day started with a reading of the scriptures and prayer. All

students were expected to attend church on Sunday. Fair Grove Methodist Church, it should be remembered, was located directly across the road from the academy. But students did not have to attend it; they were free to attend any church in the area.

Discipline was strict. Demerits and whippings (administered impartially to both sexes) were meted out to anyone who broke the rules. Classes were held between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. All students were expected to be in their rooms studying by 7:00 pm during the week. Parties and courting during evening and night hours were breaches of discipline.

But not all was work and no play. Physical education was a required part of the curriculum for both genders. The boys had a baseball team. And organized, lively debates between students on selected issues were a regular feature of academic life.

Commencement exercises at Why Not Academy were major events in the annual life cycle of the community. People came from miles around to attend them. Lacy Harper wrote in 1985 of his student days at the academy:

> I well remember the commencements as being the greatest event of the year in that area. And well do I remember the two story frame academy building with its wide front porch. This porch served as a stage for the commencement exercises. Student speaking contests, a featured speaker, a brass band--all were staged on this porch. My sister won a gold metal in one of the speaking contests.
>
> A brush arbor placed in front of the porch just for the occasion made a nice cool shade for the audience.
>
> Those were the days before Coca Cola. But refreshments could be found such as lemonade for five cents a glass and a saucer of ice cream for ten cents.

Mr. Harper added: "Families living in the Why Not community at that time [around 1910] were Professor Garner, who lived near the academy, the Slacks, who operated a general store, Charlie

Stuart, Martin Cagle, the Aumans, and the Garners."

Professors Boroughs and Garner were admired and respected by their students and by the people in the community. Professor Garner died in 1913. After his death, Alma Lassiter, Burgess Leonard, a Mr. Hogan, and Tula Morris ran the academy. In 1916 Why Not Academy burned to the ground. Tula Morris continued classes about one-half mile east of Why Not. Her school was called "Keeling College" by her students.

For two years, classes were held in a building located beside the old plank road route a few hundred feet west of the old academy site. The teachers there were Katie Bell Cagle, Minnie S. Stuart, Ada Monroe Burgess, and Mae King. Then a public school was built in Seagrove near where the Christian Church now stands. Nora Lawrence was the teacher. When that school burned down, classes were held in a store building near the old Seagrove Lumber Company. Ronie Yow and Mabel Stuart Cox taught there. The next school was located on the old plank road south of the old Page toll house site. After another fire, the present-day Seagrove schoolhouse was built.

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For a more detailed look into th daily life and annual operation of the Why Not Academy, a copy of the 1905-1906 school catalog follows:

WHY NOT ACADEMY

AND

BUSINESS

INSTITUTE

1905-1906

WHY NOT

NORTH CAROLINA RANDOLPH COUNTY

ANNUAL CATALOGUE

OF

WHY NOT ACADEMY

AND

BUSINESS INSTITUTE

WHY NOT, N. C.

CO-EDUCATIONAL. NON-SECTARIAN.

1905-1906

FOUNDED 1893

All communication should be addressed to G. F. Garner, Principal

Seagrove, R. F. D., No. 1, N. C.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1906-1907

Calendar:

August 14.--Fall Term Begins.

August 15-18.--Examinations and Classification.

December 18-20.--Fall Term Examinations.

December 21.--Fall Term Closes.

December 22-31.--Christmas Holidays.

January 1.--Spring Term Begins.

May 15-18.--Spring Term Examinations.

May 23-25.--Commencement.

Teachers:

G. F. Garner, Principal,

High School, Commercial, Shorthand and Penning Departments

* _____

Primary and Intermediate Departments

* _____

Music and Art Departments

* To be supplied

WHY NOT ACADEMY AND BUSINESS INSTITUTE

Historical Sketch.

During the Winter and Spring of 1893 the citizens of this community conceived the idea of building an academy at this place for the purpose of educating their boys and girls at home. With a will and a determination to succeed, they went to work and the building was erected, and the first session of this school was started on the 7th of August, of this same year; with Messrs. J. H. Spenser, E. E. McNeill, J. F. Chisholm (succeeded by J. A. King), M. A. Cagle, and T. W. Lawrence as Trustees.

Prof. J. P. Boroughs was elected the first principal. After having taught one very successful session he bought out the trustees, and taught continuously until, in the summer of 1900, he was elected Register of Deeds for Randolph county.

At this time the present Principal (he having had charge of the Commercial and Penning Departments for some time) leased the property and began teaching as Principal in January, 1901. In the early spring of 1903 he purchased the school property from Prof. Boroughs and will continue the school as owner and Principal. During the summer of 1905 the Academy was repainted and otherwise repaired, which has added very much to its appearance and convenience.

The school has grown slowly, but steadily, through all these years; the year just closed being the best in its history, both in enrollment and average attendance, except about two months during the Spring Term, when measles and whooping cough greatly lessened the attendance. A large number of young persons educated here are now holding positions of honor and trust in this and other states.

Location and Advantages.

Why Not Academy and Business Institute is situated in the Southern part of Randolph county, among the hills on the Aberdeen & Asheboro Railroad, one mile from Seagrove station.

The location is well adapted for a school. The inhabitants are cultured and refined, and the students associate from day to day with those who have a tendency to inspire them to nobler manhood and womanhood.

There are no bar-rooms in the county, and nothing to detract from study. The land is high and free from malarial influences; the water is pure. For healthfulness this section is not surpassed.

The mail facilities are good. We have a Rural Free Delivery route running from Seagrove by the Academy daily. Mail arrives at 12 M. and 4:30 P. M. Boarding students can have their mail delivered at the Academy.

Purposes.

It is the purpose of this school to prepare students for entrance to college or university.

Besides preparing students for college, this school gives to that class of boys and girls who may not be able to go to college, a good, practical education, with which to engage in the various business vocations of life.

Recitations and Examinations.

All students in the Literary Department are required to take at least fifteen recitations per week. Oral and written examinations will be held at the close of each quarter. Students must pass a satisfactory examination on the work of each term before being admitted to higher classes, and before credit will be given for that term's work. A grade of 75 per cent is required to pass on any one study.

Records and Reports.

A careful record of the work and conduct of each student is kept and a report sent to the parent or guardian at the close of each quarter. The design of these reports is to give as full information as possible of the conduct and progress of the student, and to secure the co-operation of parents and guardians in promoting diligence in study and regular attendance on duty.

Physical Culture.

Physical development is as essential as mental growth and all students, when the weather will admit, are required to take out-door exercise. A sound mind cannot exist without a sound body; hence we emphasize the importance of physical culture. All brutal games are prohibited.

The campus has two societies, one for the young ladies and the other for the young gentlemen. The members of these societies have been enthusiastic and their meetings have been interesting and instructive. Students are urged to attach themselves to one of the societies, and the Principal is ever ready to aid and encourage the members in the work of the societies. It is expected that the work of these societies will be better the coming year than in the past.

Religious Influences.

The school opens each day with devotional exercises conducted by the Principal or by some one appointed by him. All students are required to attend the morning exercises of the school and to attend Sunday School and church services.

There are four churches within easy reach of the school, the Methodist Protestant, Bapist, Christian and Methodist Episcopal.

Library.

A free Rural Library was established in 1902, and has been suplemented by the addition of a number of volumes recently. We hope to add many more volumes in the near future. All students have free access to the library for research, under proper rules and regulations. Students have derived much benefit from the reading of the books in the library during the past year.

Commercial Department.

In this department we teach Spelling and Defining; Book-keeping, single and double entry; Commercial Law; Commercial Arithmetic; Grammar and Correspondence; Punctuation; Plain Penmanship; Banking; Business Practice, etc.

Penmanship Department.

This department embraces Rapid Writing, Ornamental Penmanship; Pen Flourishing; Pen Drawing; Black-board Writing; Specimen work for framing, etc.

Shorthand and Typewriting.

In this department we teach the Perin Universial Phonography, and give practice work on the Remington Typewriter. Diplomas will be given in the Shorthand Department to students writing as many as one hundred words per minute. In the Typewriting Department a speed of sixty words per minute is required.

The Principal is a graduate of one of the leading Business colleges of the country, and has had several years' experience in teaching these various branches.

Time Required.

Our motto is to be equal to the best. We have no short course, but a thorough, complete, and practical course in each department. The time required to complete either the Commercial, Penmanship, Shorthand, or Typewriting course depends upon the previous education and aptness of the student. The average time is from four to six months. Time for literary course is four years.

Literary Course.

Primary Department: Holmes' First, Second, and Third Readers; Number Work, Primary Arithmetic; Primary Geography; Spelling; Writing; Supplementary Reading; and drawing.

Intermediate Department: Holmes' Fourth Reader; Intermediate Artithmetic; Intermediate Geography; Language Lessons; Spelling; Writing; Physiology and Hygiene; U. S. History (beginning); Manual Geography, begun; N. C. History; English Grammar, begun;

Civil Government; Drawing; Elements of Agriculture, etc.

High School Department: Arithmetic completed; U. S. History completed; English Grammar and Composition; Geography, completed; English History; General History; Algebra; Rhetoric; English Classics; Physics; Latin; American Literature, etc.

Text Books.

We teach the books adopted for use in the Public Schools of the State. Higher Branches: Mathematics, Robinson, Wentworth; Latin, Bingham, Collar and Daniel, Allen and Greenough; English History, Montgomery; General History, Myers; Physics, Steele; Commercial, Williams and Rogers; Shorthand, Perin, etc.

Discipline.

It is the object of the principal to make the discipline uniform, kind, but firm. Every student is taught the right and is required to do the right. We expect to make the type of our school high with respect to morality, and we will not be bothered with mean and vicious pupils. Any student willfully violating the rules of school, or whose influence is known to be injurious to the morals and scholarship of his fellow students will be dismissed in dishonor. Students entering the school must agree to observe the following requirements:

1. To apply themselves diligently to their studies during study hours at night and during school hours in the day, when not on recitation.
2. To be prompt at meals and all school exercises and recitations.
3. Not to write or pass notes, or communicate by word, sign or otherwise during school hours.
4. Not to use profane or indecent language.
5. Not to use tobacco in any form in or around any building or on the school grounds. If any students persist in using it elsewhere, their standing will thereby be lowered and so entered on their records.
6. Not to use any intoxicating drink or narcotic drug of any kind, except in case of dangerous sickness or prescribed by a physician.
7. Not to mark, cut, or in any way deface school property, trees or grounds. The student is required to pay for damage done to property by him.
8. Not to play cards or any game of chance, nor to indulge in any conduct, in or out of school, known to be damaging to the students or to the interest of the school.
9. Young men are not allowed to make calls on young ladies, and young ladies are not allowed to have young gentlemen visitors, except by permission of parents or guardians and Principal.
10. Every student is required to be at his home or boarding place from 7 o'clock at night until 8 o'clock in the morning.
11. No student will be allowed to leave the school or his or her boarding place, except by permission of the Principal. Boarding students who go home on Friday evenings are excused to

leave as soon as their week's work is done.

The Principal stands "in loco parentis" to the boarding student, and the boarding student is responsible to the Principal for all his or her acts while a student of the school.

Expenses Per Month.

Board, including fuel, lights, etc.,	$6.00 to $7.00
Tuition, Primary Department,	1.00 to 1.25
Tuition, Intermediate Department,	1.50 to 2.00
Tuition, High School Department,	1.75 to 3.00
Tuition, Commercial Department,	3.00
Tuition, Penmanship Department,	3.00
Tuition, Shorthand and Typewriting,	3.00
Tuition, Music, including use of inst.,	2.50

Washing and ironing can be secured for from 50 cents to $1.00 per month.

Students wishing to board themselves can rent unfurnished rooms for from 50 cents to $1.00 per month; furnished rooms, 75 cents to $1.50 per month.

Terms.

All bills must be settled at the end of each month, unless a different agreement has been made previously. Unpaid bills will draw interest at the legal rate of interest.

No tuition will be charged for less than a month's time. Students who are in fractional parts of a month will be charged for a full month. Tuition is charged by the month, not by the day, and bills will be made accordingly. No deduction from tuition, except in cases of protracted illness of at least one week. Tuition will be charged from date of entrance until the end of the term, or until the Principal is notified that the student has severed his connection with the school.

Miscellaneous.

The doors of the school are open to all save the indolent and vicious.

All students should enter the first day, and should be present each day. Unless there is regular attendance no student can hope to make satisfactory progress.

All students are expected to be furnished with books of their own for the work which they propose to take. The cost of books varies from $4.00 to $9.00 per year according to student's advancement.

Boarding students are expected to be at their rooms for study by 7 o'clock p. m.

Parents, please give us your co-operation, and where students come from home, see that they are provided with a good light at night and devote sometime to the study of their lessons at home.

The citizens of the community who board students are respectfully requested to co-operate with the Principal in carrying out the rules and regulations of the school.

Students who board themselves are required to clean up and keep their rooms in order.

The people of Why Not and surrounding community are respectfully requested not to give any social entertainments or parties to which they invite students during the school week. We must insist that the student's business here is to study, and the attendance upon such entertainments or parties is detrimental to his school life.

It is our aim at this school to make students of all sections, parties, creeds and conditions feel perfectly at home and meet on a level of perfect equality.

During the year we expect to have a series of lectures on topics of interest to students and patrons.

Each student should provide himself with a Bible and keep it regularly in his room. We believe in encouraging the young to read the Bible.

Students must not attend parties or social gatherings during the school week; and we advise that they not attend such gatherings at all, as it interferes with their school work.

At the commencement in May, 1906 the following won medals:

Declaimer's Medal, Mr. D. F. Hulin, Okeeweemee, N. C.
Reciter's Medal, Miss Ina Bean, Seagrove, R. F. D., N. C.

No student will be allowed to contest for, or win a prize or medal, who has not been in school at least two months, or has not passed the examinations of the school, unless excused from examinations for good reasons.

We solicit the patronage and co-operation of all who go or send to school with a view of acquiring knowledge. We do not claim to have any new road to knowledge. The only way to success lies through the land of effort and toil, and no student need expect to succeed unless he or she is willing to put forth the proper amount of effort.

Diplomas are granted to students completing in a satisfactory manner any of the courses of study. Diploma fee $2.00. The following completed the Commercial course last term: Messrs. L. C. Maness, Prosperity, N. C.; G. W. Scott, Flower Hill, N. C.; and W. L. Trogdon, Aconite, N. C.

For further information concerning the school, address or call on

G. F. Garner, Principal,
Seagrove, (R. F. D. No. 1) N. C.

CATALOGUE OF STUDENTS.

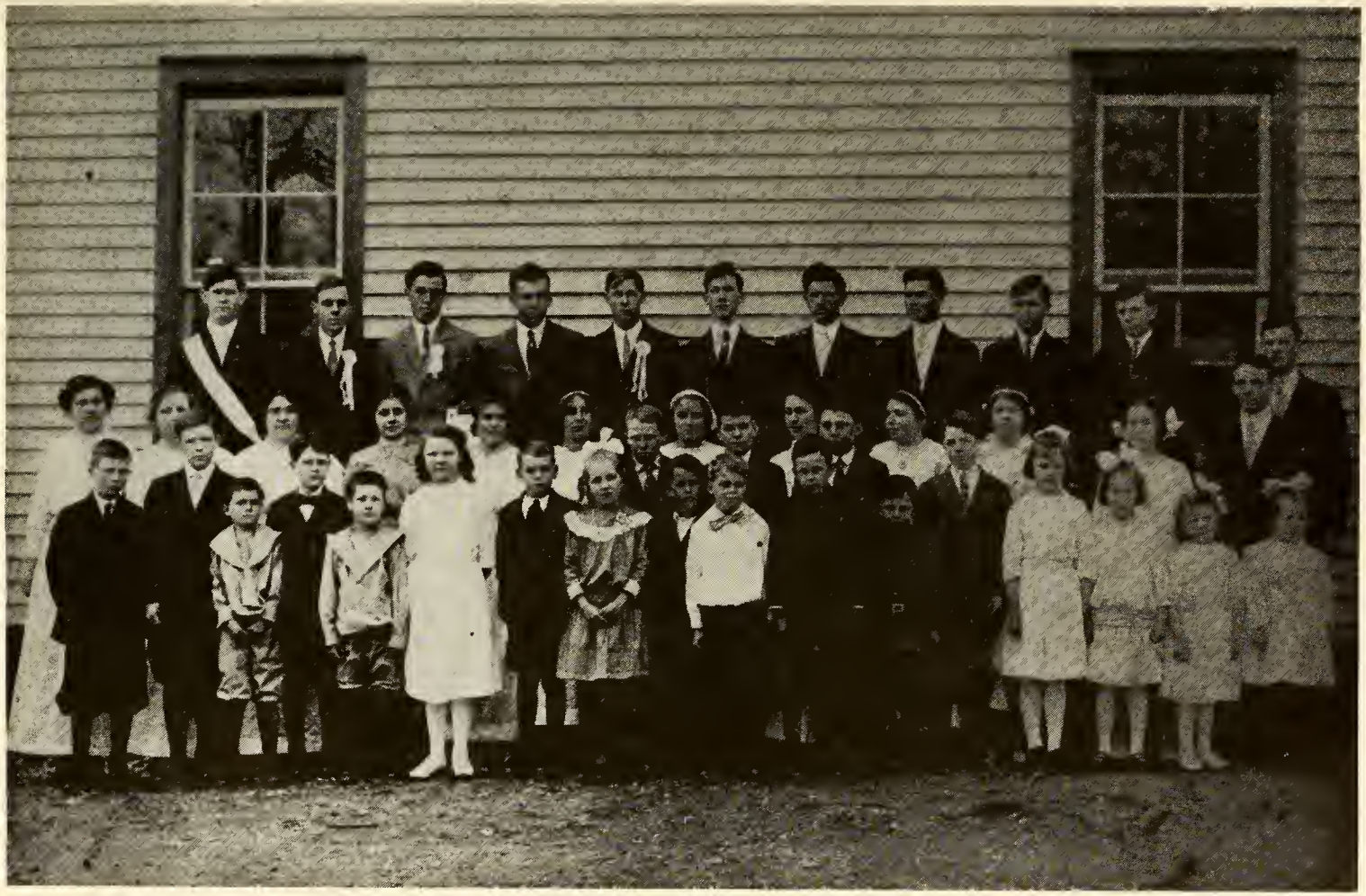
In Attendance During the Year 1905-'06.

Name	Parent or Guardian
Auman, Martin C.,	J. A. Auman, Seagrove, R. F. D.
Auman, John, C.,	" " "
Auman, Furman,	" " "
Auman, Pearle,	E. K. Auman, Asbury
Auman, Jesse,	F. H. Auman, Steeds
Bean, Ina L.,	Henry Bean, Seagrove, R. F. D.
Biggs, Ethel,	Rev. Geo. H. Biggs, " "
Biggs, Eliza,	" " "
Biggs, Cammie,	" " "
Biggs, Maggie,	" " "
Beck, Thos. A.,	J. T. Beck, Kanoy
Beck, Sally R.,	" "
Boone, Cled L.,	W. W. Boone, Seagrove, R. F. D.
Brown, Hugh T.,	Reuben Brown, Asheboro
Cagle, Floyd E.,	M. A. Cagle, Seagrove, R. F. D.
Cagle, Josie A.,	" "
Cagle, Hobart E.,	" "
Cagle, Graham,	Wm. Cagle, Asbury
Cagle, Ruby E.,	" "
Cagle, Nannie C.,	" "
Cagle, Maggie A.,	" "
Cagle, Katie B.,	" "
Cagle, Cora M.,	Mrs. Martha J. Cagle, Seagrove, R. F. D.
Callicott, Estelle,	Alfred Callicott, Pisgah
Copeland, Jesse,	William Copeland, Eagle Springs
Cox, Hazel R.,	S. A. Cox, Pisgah
Cox, Adlai R.,	" "
Cox, Myrtle A.,	S. S. Cox, Brown
Ellis, Daisy D.,	W. H. Ellis, Ore Hill, R. F. D.
Finison, Willie B.,	N. I. Finison, Prosperty
Freeman, Jesse H.,	G. B. Freeman, Asbury
Freeman, John R.,	" "
Freeman, Lena,	" "
Freeman, Willie L.,	" "
Freeman, Laura G.,	" "
Freeman, Robt. L.,	W. L. Freeman, Ether
Freeman, Chas. M.,	" "
Freeman, Wm. H.,	Harrison Freeman, "
Garner, Walter C.,	G. F. Garner, Seagrove, R. F.D.
Garner, Herbert L.,	" "
Garner, Bertha L.,	" "
Garner, Grady R.,	" "
Garner, Alvah E.,	" "

Hancock, Dolphus H.,.....J. S. Hancock, Seagrove, R. F. D.
Hancock, Maggie,..... " "
Hancock, Lummie,..... " "
Hancock, Ora E.,..... " "
Hogan, Petty O.,.....A. Hogan, Star
Hulin, D. F.,.....A. W. Hulin, Okeeweemee
Hulin, Jesse R.,..... " "
Hulin, John A.,.....J. L. Hulin, Troy
Kearns, Richard D.,.....R. D. Kearns, Allreds
Kennedy, Ida E.,.....W. L. Stutts, Seagrove, R. F. D.
King, Lonnie A.,.....J. A. King, Seagrove, R. F. D.
King, Carson,..... " "
King, Elsie,..... " "
King, Fleta,.....A. L. King, Seagrove, R. F. D.
King, Eula,..... " "
King, Emmett P.,..... " "
King, Otis R.,..... " "
King, Nettie J.,.....Leander King, Seagrove
King, Lettie A.,..... " "
Lassiter, Jesse C.,.....Rev. W. C. Lassiter, Seagrove, R. F. D.
Lawrence, Bascom S.,.....T. W. Lawrence, " "
Lawrence, Myrtie,..... " " "
Lawrence, Everett,..... " " "
Lawrence, Fay E.,..... " " "
Leach, Emma Y.,.....Rev. M. J. Leach, Lassiter
Lewallen, Carl A.,.....Mrs. Luzena Lewallen, High Point
Luck, Alma B.,.....C. T. Luck, White House
Luck, Fleta A.,.....E. N. Luck, Pisgah
Maness, Lewis C.,.....W. T. Maness, Prosperity
Martin, Bolivar B.,.....A. F. Martin, Martin's Mills
McNeill, Carson C.,.....Calvin McNeill, Home
McNeill, Estell,.....E. E. McNeill, Seagrove, R. F. D.
McNeill, Swanna,..... " "
Monroe, Graham,.....J. A. Monroe, "
Monroe, Ada,..... " "
Parks, Alice C.,.....L. B. Parks, Seagrove
Parks, Cora E.,..... " "
Parks, Junie L.,..... " "
Poteet, James C.,.....W. H. Poteet, Salisbury
Presnell, Larkin J.,.....M. J. Presnell, Mitchfield
Presnell, Doctor B.,..... " "
Russell, Chas. E.,.....Wm. Russell, Seagrove
Russell, Lillie,..... " "
Scott, George W.,.....A. W. Scott, Flower Hill
Slack, Sarah E.,.....J. B. Slack, Seagrove, R. F.D.
Slack, Thomas N.,..... " "
Slack, Margaret T.,..... " "
Slack, John M.,..... " "
Slack, Martha J.,..... " "
Slack, Ernest L.,..... " "
Slack, George D.,..... " "
Spencer, Conie B.,.....J. A. Monroe, "
Spencer, Pearl,.....J. H. Spencer, "
Stuart, Mabel G.,.....C. E. Stuart, "
Stuart, Hester S.,....." "

Stutts, Annie J.,.....W. L. Stutts, Seagrove, R. F.D.
Stutts, Erastus E.,..... " "
Stutts, Herman D.,..... " "
Stutts, Nova E.,.....H. S. Stutts, "
Trogdon, Wm. L.....Miss Agnes Graves, Aconite
Vuncannon, Leonora,.....J. A. Vuncannon, Seagrove
Vuncannon, Lorettie,..... " "
Williams, Minnie,.....H. C. Williams, Pisgah
Yow, Elmer C.,.....E. R. Yow, Seagrove, R. F. D.
Yow, Ronie B.,.....Henry Yow, Seagrove
Yow, Zora E.,.....J. M. Yow, Asbury
Yow, Hattie,..... " "
Yow, Lela J.,.....J. G. Yow, Brower's Mill
Yow, Eula E.,..... " "

Sitting - Left to Right Burl Freeman, Clayton Monroe, Paul Hancock, Otis Stutts, Verne Stewart, Curtis Garner, Emery Slack, Alvah Garner, Euclid Auman, Eldon Garner, Lacey Harper, Percy Stutts, J. B. Slack, Pearl Garner, Nova Stutts, Mae Harper, Allene King, Ora Hancock, Baxter Stowe, Grady Garner, Professor Garner
Middle Row - Lula McNeill, Faye Lawrence, Martha Slack, Ethel King, Della, Maurine Luck, Bertha Garner, Stacy Lowdermilk, Jessie Cox, Cora Stowe, Lattie Wooly, Beulah McNeill, Beulah Cox, Nettie Deaton, Josie Cagle, Sallie Slack
3rd Row - Everette Lawrence, Causey Allen, Will Redding, Carson McNeill, Graham Monroe, Furman Auman, Ernest Slack Walter Russell, Walter Garner, Elsie King,Hobart Deaton, Clyde King. Herbert Garner, Hugh Lowdermilk.



May 1914 Commencement Wht Not Academty
Back Row L-R Dan Dunlap, Hobart Deaton, Everette Lawrence, Furman Auman, Ernest Russell, Elroy Cox,Fletcher Ferree, Graham Monroe, Earl Baldwin, Hobart Cagle, Elsie King, Second Row - Pauline Lawrence, Harriet Smith, Mattie Copeland,Delphine Lawrence, Ada Monroe,Lela Smith, Alene King, Maggie Cagle, Faye Lawrence, Ora Hancock, Annie King, Prof. Leonard. Third Row - Brack Macon, Euclid Auman, Emmett Lawrence, Front Row- Dwight Smith, Eldon Garner, Harry Monroe, Paul Hancock, Curtis Garner, Pearl Garner, John Lawrence, Lizzie Lawrence, Clifford Lawrence, Vern Stewart, Carl Smith, Claude Smith, Clayton Monroe, Eva Smith, Canary Johnson, Hazel Garner, and Maple Lawrence

LAST CLASS OF WHY NOT ACADEMY 1916-17

Back Row L-R Tula Morris (Ward),Teacher, Pearl Garner, Lila Hancock, Nova Stutts, Lela Smith, Eva Smith, Clayton Monroe, Eldon Garner, Second Row - Lizzie Lawrence, Hazel Garner, Ruth McNeill, Pearl Cagle, Maple Lawrence, Lillian King, Mary Alice Lawrence, Third Row - J. B. Slack, Mozelle Hancock (with bow),Valentine Hancock, Hattie Yow, Alton Stutts, Flossie Yow (skip three girls) Clarence Cagle, James Cagle, Elizabeth Slack, Sitting - Carl Smith, Curtis Garner, Clifford Lawrence, Harry Monroe, Paul Hancock, Otis Stutts, Clyde Cagle, Claude Smith, Floyd McNeill, John Lawrence, Verne Stuart, Kneeling - Ralph Lawrence, Homer Hancock, Carlie Stutts

CHAPTER FOUR:

HISTORY
OF
WHY NOT MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

The Why Not Memorial Association is a voluntary association of citizens whose goals are the preservation of the Fair Grove Church building and cemetery, and the perpetuation of the history of the Why Not Academy, the Fair Grove Methodist Church, and the Why Not community. The Association is composed of the alumni of Why Not Academy and their descendants, the former members of the Fair Grove Methodist Church and their descendants, and citizens of the Why Not community.

After Why Not Academy burned in 1916, many former teachers and students met annually and held a memorial service in memory of the academy, the academy's two great leaders--professors James P. Boroughs and George F. Garner--and the other teachers who taught there, and the academy's graduates. At a meeting of this group on May 17, 1936, the Why Not Memorial Association was founded. W. Carson King led the drive to create the Association because he wanted to see that the Fair Grove Church, which had been discontinued as a regular church by the Methodist Conference in 1935, and its cemetery and grounds would be maintained properly in the future. The Association was to meet annually on the third Sunday in May. The first officers of the Why Not Memorial Association were W. C. King, President; L. A. King, Vice-

President; Lela Lemonds, Secretary; Mrs. C. E. Stuart, Historian.

At the May, 1937, meeting of the Association, a Grounds Committee and a Constitution and By-Laws Committee were appointed. Elsey Allen suggested that the Association purchase the site of the old Why Not Academy and erect a monument on it to the memory of the academy and to the work of the late Professor Garner. No action was taken to do this.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee was composed of W. C. King, W. C. Garner, and Euclid Auman. In May, 1938, the Constitution and By-Laws drawn up by the committee were presented to the Association, voted on, and accepted.

Between 1940 and 1942, the church was painted, the cemetery was seeded, a retaining wall was built along the south and east sides of the cemetery, and cemetery plots were made available to buyers. In 1948, Phil and Nell Graves donated land adjoining the cemetery to the Association.

The Why Not Memorial Association elected a Board of Trustees in 1950. The main function of the Trustees was to serve as an authority to issue and receive deeds in the name of the Association. But there were now two boards of trustees in the Why Not community: one for the Why Not Memorial Association, and one for the Fair Grove Methodist Church (which had been in existence for a long time). To simplify legal, administrative, and financial matters, community leaders decided to combine the functions and powers of the two boards under one authority. The board of trustees for the church agreed to transfer the title of the Fair Grove Methodist Church to the trustees of the Why Not Memorial

Association, which was done on February 24, 1951. At that time, the trustees of the church were C. L. Monroe, C. E. Stuart, and J. D. Lilly; the trustees of the Association were L. A. King, M. C. Auman, Mrs. A. C. Lowdermilk, Ernest Cagle, and D. R. Graves. The deed, in part, reads as follows:

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Fairgrove Methodist Church has for some years been virtually an abandoned church so that for all practical purpose said church does not now exist except as a legal entity; and

WHEREAS, the Whynot Memorial Association is a voluntary association for memorial purpose made up of various old members of the Whynot Community and their descendants, which Association has for many years conducted an annual "Homecoming" program in said community and at the particular site of said church in whose cemetery many of the ancestors of the association members are buried; and

WHEREAS, for several years said Association has taken a considerable part in maintaining the church cemetery and grounds; and

WHEREAS, this deed was recently authorized by the Quarterly Conference of the Seagrove Charge of the Methodist Church, said authorization being more particularly and exactly set out as follows:

RESOLUTION CONCERNING FAIRGROVE METHODIST CHURCH

IN THE THOMASVILLE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Fairgrove Methodist Church on the Seagrove charge in the Thomasville District has to all practical intents been an abandoned church for several years, most of the members having moved away from the community, while others have transferred their membership to Seagrove; and

WHEREAS, there does exist the Why Not Memorial Association composed of former residents and former members of said Fairgrove Methodist Church, which is interested in the perpetual upkeep of the cemetery, part of which is owned in fee simple by the said Why Not Memorial Association; and

WHEREAS, said Memorial Association desires to maintain the church property in a decent state of repair so that same may be used as a chapel for funerals and as a place for the annual

gatherings of said Memorial Association; and

WHEREAS, the Quarterly Conference of the Seagrove charge is agreeable to such an arrangement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairgrove Methodist Church be declared an abandoned church and that the trustees of said church be authorized and empowered to deed the church lot, and the cemetery lots, to the Board of Trustees of the Why Not Memorial Association, and their successors in office, for use as a chapel in connection with the cemetery as a place for the annual gatherings; however, in the event that said Why Not Memorial Association should cease to function in maintaining the property, or in using it as agreed upon, the title would revert to the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church.

A motion was made and carried at the 1955 business meeting of the Association "that a suitable marker be purchased and erected near the site of the old Why Not Academy, in memory of Professors James P. Boroughs and George F. Garner." A marker was purchased and erected at a cost of $489.99. The unveiling ceremony took place on May 20, 1956. Mrs. Connie Gross, granddaughter of Professor Boroughs, and Miss Nancy Garner, granddaughter of Professor Garner played prominent roles in the celebration. Other persons of note present were Mrs. Etta Austin, Mrs. Connie Lowdermilk, Mrs. Velon Auman, Mrs. George Matthews, Mr. Bert Spencer, and Miss Rosa Stowe; each of them had assisted professors Garner or Boroughs at one time or another at the academy. Also present were Mr. John Garner, brother of Professor Garner, and Mrs. Minnie Hammer, alumnus and benefactor.

The Why Not Memorial Association published History of Fair Grove Methodist Church in 1958. The history was written by Minnie Spencer Stuart with the assistance of Connie Lowdermilk. Mrs. Hester Champion took care of the printing arrangements. This history is a major source of information about the Fair Grove Church, the Why Not Memorial Association, and the Why Not

community in general.

In 1972, J. B. Slack and Clyde Auman suggested that the Why Not Memorial Association be incorporated. The articles of incorporation were drawn up, and they were signed on May 16, 1973. The original Board of Directors were L. A. King, Ernest Cagle, Harwood Graves, Shelton Graves, and J. B. Slack. The purpose of the Why Not Memorial Association, Inc., as stated in its charter, was as follows:

> The Association is organized for the purposes of establishing and maintaining a program of perpetual care for the Why Not Cemetery and the Why Not Church (formerly the Fair Grove Methodist Protestant Church), at Why Not, below Seagrove, North Carolina, Randolph County; and of holding annual memorial and homecoming services at such Church and Cemetery for people who are descendants or relatives of present or former residents of the community, or former members of the Church or former students or teachers at Why Not Academy, or friends or loved ones of any of the foregoing.

Fair Grove Church, Why Not, North Carolina
Built 1902

CHAPTER FIVE:

INDEX TO PERSONS BURIED AT THE

FAIR GROVE METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY

AT

WHY NOT

NORTH CAROLINA

The following gravestone inscriptions were copied by Ruth Lawrence with the assistance of Donna Lawrence Staley, William T. Auman, and Jack McKenzie. William T. Auman typed the inscriptions in alphabetical order. Please bring any errors to the attention of one of the above persons so that future editions of this book may be revised accordingly.

The cemetery rows start just behind the memorial monument and are perpendicular to the paved road.

NAME	DATES	ROW NUMBER
A		
Allred, Howard	no date, no marker	11
Auman, ____, infant sons of Chas.	8/9/1910-6/19/1911	10
Auman, Alson	5/14/1858-9/21/1947	12
Auman, Charles Barrett	9/13/1879-5/22/1961	10
Auman, Claude Myrtle, wife of Martin Clinton Auman	4/30/1893-10/9/1977	11
Auman, Dempsey	11/24/1864-4/6/1939	8
Auman, E. K.	8/29/1860-1/30/1938	9
Auman, Elbert, son of D. & F. J.	1893-1903	8
Auman, Ella Reynolds	12/7/1860-1/23/1941	12
Auman, Francis Jane	7/19/1865-2/18/1945	8
Auman, Henry	10/31/1816-12/13/1892	9
Auman, J. Carr, son of D. & F. J.	1889-1920	8
Auman, Jefferson A.	2/27/1856-12/24/1934	11
Auman, Kizzia, wife of Henry	12/10/1821-6/25/1912	9
Auman, Lizzie Lawrence, wife of Jefferson A. Auman	9/8/1859-9/11/1938	11
Auman, Lydia, wife of Martin	5/24/1832-1/14/1902	11
Auman, Margaret C. Reynolds	3/3/1859-10/21/1928	9
Auman, Martin (first person buried at Fair Grove Church)	7/9/1827-11/1/1873	11
Auman, Martin Clinton	7/13/1890-6/8/1978	11
Auman, Remay H., son of D. & F. J.	1899-1900	8
Auman, Rufus R.	10/22/1880-3/15/1966	6
Auman, Sarah Jane	11/1/1879-2/10/1961	10
Auman, Velon L.	8/9/1883-11/11/1962	6
Auman, Willie Grace	8/14/1907-6/11/1908	10

B

Beck Mozella T.	1906-1979	13
Beck, Walter C.	1901-1977	13
Boroughs, Ella S., dau. of J. P. and Lou	4/19/1878-12/20/1878	10
Boroughs, James H.	4/27/1820-1/20/1900	10
Boroughs, James P., professor at Why Not Academy	2/29/1852-9/4/1926	10
Boroughs, Laura Estella, dau. of J. P. and Lou	8/29/1870-9/24/1892	10
Boroughs, Louisa, wife of James P. Boroughs	10/18/1853-9/17/1924	10
Boroughs, Mary S., dau. of J. P. and Lou	4/1/1890-12/10/1898	10
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K

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King, ____ infant son of Jane King	1/1910	7
King, Alfred L.	9/22/1856-7/1/1935	7
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King, Boyd A.	11/29/1896-7/2/1980	15
King, Elbert A.	3/5/1918-5/6/1964	11
King, Emmitt	12/24/1896-1/23/1922	7
King, Ernest Helms, son of Mr. & Mrs. C. E. King	12/2/1920-12/6/1920	1
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L

Latham, Ann	____	1
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Lawrence, Alice	8/21/1862-5/7/1922	6
Lawrence, Bascum S.	4/3/1887-2/3/1953	6
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Lawrence, Guy Fowler	2/7/1914-4/11/1918	3
Lawrence, Jas. Gilbert	2/12/1944-5/22-1969	6
Lawrence, Jas. Leighton	2/6/1911-4/11/1962	6
Lawrence, Lena Beck	11/18/1883-5/4/1970	3
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Lawrence, Mary Alice	5/10/1909-4/18/1918	3

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McKenzie, Alexander, infant son of John & Jane McKinzie	2/15/1886	9
Monroe, Fred, son of J. A. & Hattie Monroe	5/8/1916-7/31/1918	12
Murray, Christina R.	8/31/1887-5/5/1968	9
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P

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Reeder, ____ infant of Mary Reeder	____	8
Reeder, William Clarence	5/22/1912-6/12/1971	9
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Richardson, Christenia, wife of Andrew	____	11
Richardson, Foster C., Sr.	3/16/1882-1/9/1965	14
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Richardson, L. Roy	9/12/1878-9/22/1960	14
Richardson, Lillian Stubbs	10/19/1872-5/21/1966	11
Richardson, Lonnie L.	2/24/1874-12/10/1947	14
Richardson, Mary Mamie	11/25/1876-10/15/1974	14
Richardson, Noah	2/25/1849-10/10/1926	11
Richardson, Wincy Adeline, wife of S. R. Richardson	4/1/1865-12/20/1893	12

S

Slack, ____infant of Lundy Jane Slack	3/25/1905-3/28/1905	3
Slack, Earl Braxton	9/18/1884-5/11/1963	3
Slack, Ernest B., Jr.	4/18/1896-11/21/1965	3
Slack, Elbie Miller	7/23/1881-7/14/1961	3
Slack, J. B.	8/13/1862-1/5/1948	3

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Smith, Millicent M.	1867-1936	14
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Spencer, Rev. C. L.	1879-1946	12
Spencer, Clayton	2/13/1877-5/17/1950	12
Spencer, Cora Lee	9/3/1899-8/2/1946	5
Spencer, E. L.	11/15/1845-12/19/1891	12
Spencer, Ellen Hudson	1871-1958	12
Spencer, F. Pearl	7/16/1891-9/17/1973	12
Spencer, Fruza	6/11/1853-5/15/1927	12
Spencer, J. H.	10/15/1847-6/11/1926	12
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Spencer, Sarah	1/9/1850-1/26/1923	12
Spencer, Sarah Ann	8/25/1871-7/13/1957	5
Spencer, Susy Ann Trogdon	2/2/1849-5/17/1888	12
Steed, John Franklin	9/17/1882-12/19/1965	6
Stout, Aginess C., wife of Taylor Stout	11/6/1859-8/15/1900	6
Stout, Carl Clarence, Sr.	2/25/1892-11/18/1963	13
Stout, J. T., Sr.	9/15/1853-12/21/1918	6
Stout, Myrtle Chloe	1889-1910	6
Stout, Ruth Maness	11/26/1892-8/22/1964	13
Stout, Sarah Donnah	11/27/1887-6/18/1979	6
Stuart, Chas. E.	5/20/1869-5/6/1956	12
Stuart, Mary Weeks, wife of Verne	4/9/1908-7/20/1983	12
Stuart, Minnie Spencer	6/25/1872-3/7/1968	12
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Stutts, Lundia Dunlap, wife of Henry S. Stutts	6/11/1884-8/25/1961	5
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Yow, Estelle	died 6/19/1889	8
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Yow, Susanna Chriscoe	5/31/1864-10/29/1917	10

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Please Note:

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2. List of Students in Attendance at Why Not Academy, 1905-1906 (includes names of parents of students and student's post office address--see page 52)
3. Index to Persons Buried at the Fair Grove Methodist Church Cemetery (see page 60)

This index was prepared and typed by William T. Auman. Please notify him of errors and omissions so that future editions of this book may be corrected accordingly.

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